



**Quarterly Report: April 1 to June 30, 2005**

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: POLITICAL PARTY AND  
PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENT**

**USAID Associate Cooperative Agreement No. 168-A-00-03-00104-00**

**I. SUMMARY**

The collapse of police reform negotiations and instability surrounding the Council of Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) have once again slowed BiH's progress toward integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions. While governing nationalist parties are embroiled in defending ethnic quotas within BiH's governing structures, moderate parties, such as the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), are working to increase their visibility and effectiveness in municipal-level governance. With assistance from the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the SDP and the SNSD, along with other moderate parties, established constituent outreach offices for their municipal councilors and began to reform their caucuses in legislative assemblies. NDI and its partners are looking to connect moderate parties with voters through outreach at the municipal level, where citizens can more easily access their representatives, ahead of nationwide parliamentary elections in October 2006.

Since 1996, NDI has supported the long-term development of political parties, encouraging citizen participation in the political process, and cultivating professional and transparent legislative bodies in BiH. The overarching goal of NDI's current program in BiH is to advance issue-based politics through modernizing the structures and practices of select political parties and the state-level and two entity parliaments. The objectives of the political party development program are to enhance party development and modernization, to increase the participation of party members in party processes and politics, and to facilitate an increase in issue-based public outreach by parties. Through the parliamentary development program, NDI facilitates the development of parliamentary internship programs, the increase of interaction among parliamentary committees and caucuses and the public, and the modernization of committee and caucus operations in all three parliaments, along with the Brčko District Assembly.

In this quarter, NDI conducted the following activities:

***Political Party Development Program***

- Trained 27 office assistants from 18 constituent outreach offices, representing four parties, on casework tracking, constituent database management, and public and media outreach techniques;
- Trained councilors from the Celinac Municipal Assembly on its current Rules of Procedure and possible areas for improvement, including the role of committee work, the process for the discussion and adoption of agendas, and constituency outreach;
- Assisted the SDP in events surrounding the opening of constituency offices in Mostar and Tuzla, both of which were attended by party President Zlatko Lagumdžija; and
- Conducted two training seminars for a total of 50 participants from SNSD's youth wing on campaign strategy and planning, including voter targeting and canvassing.

***Parliamentary Development Program***

- Organized an open-forum discussion between FBiH parliamentary interns and Ahmet Hadžipasić, prime minister of the Federation of BiH;
- Held a ceremony for graduates of NDI's computer courses for staff members at the Federation parliament; and
- Provided assistance to five select committees in the RSNA to improve their organization, reporting and public outreach.

In this quarter, NDI observed the following results:

***Political Party Development Program***

- The SDP branch in Sarajevo Centar began a campaign to re-register its membership in order to improve communication and outreach to members.
- The SDP opened constituent outreach offices in Mostar and Tuzla for its elected officials at all levels of government.
- SNSD councilors in Bijeljina and Prijedor began to conduct constituent outreach in their respective municipalities.
- The Liberal Democratic Party (LDS) began a country-wide campaign to re-register their party members.

***Parliamentary Development Program***

- The Finance Committee in the RSNA adopted defined roles for individual committee members and has begun the practice of inviting interested NGOs and media to committee meetings.
- Three FBiH members of parliament opened constituency offices in Gracanica, Kakanj and Hadzici.

- Four constituent outreach offices were opened in the RSNA, expanding the total amount of offices in use by RSNA MPs to 30.

## II. BACKGROUND

The collapse of multi-party negotiations on police reform in May demonstrated the continued inability of Bosnia-Herzegovina's (BiH) political leadership to lead the country beyond post-conflict stagnation and toward European integration. The refusal of political leaders in the Republika Srpska (RS) to consider police redistricting that would cross entity lines led directly to the indefinite postponement of talks with the European Union (EU) on a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA), the first step in the country's bid for EU candidacy. Bosnia-Herzegovina is now the only country in the region with no such agreement with the European Union. High Representative Paddy Ashdown responded by suspending all talks on police reform, stating that the onus is now on RS officials to come back to the negotiating table.

June found the BiH Council of Ministers embroiled in a scandal that exposed the inherent weakness of its multi-constituent peoples structure. Prime Minister Adnan Terzic and Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic differed over the appointment of the new chief of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), resulting in Terzic accepting the long-defunct resignation submitted by Ivanic in December 2004. In effect, Terzic fired Ivanic for blocking the appointment of Terzic's candidate and lobbying instead for the appointment of a Serb candidate, Sredoje Novic. Terzic appealed to Ashdown to use the High Representative's power of appointment in this case, as the Council of Ministers could not come to agreement. However, Ashdown responded by appointing Novic, a great embarrassment for Terzic, and referring to the entire scenario as a "bout of summer madness." The situation remained unresolved by quarter's end, with the Council unable to agree on a replacement for Ivanic.

The failure of Bosnia's political leaders to agree on issues ranging from police reform to political appointments illustrates a governing structure that is finding it difficult to function. The constituent-people quotas are unwieldy and expensive, yet many of Bosnia's politicians cling to them as safeguards for their respective constituencies. This unsustainable situation may be coming to a head, with possible police and constitutional reforms, and nation-wide parliamentary elections just over a year away. Political parties are positioning themselves now on these issues, with the governing nationalist parties strengthening their defense of ethnic quotas and moderate parties trying to capitalize on the government's stagnation. This contrast can be illustrated by the Party for BiH (SBiH) and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDS). The SBiH, which began as a less-nationalistic splinter group of the Party for Democratic Action (SDA), is on the brink of collapse following a dismal result in the October 2004 local elections and internal defections back to the SDA. In contrast, the LDS has rebuilt itself after similarly bad results in October 2004 that led to the youth wing of the party demanding more influence at the party's annual conference. The result is a party that is eager to become a factor in moderate politics and has requested more assistance from NDI in developing its policies through public outreach.

As with the LDS, the National Democratic Institute is working with moderate political parties, particularly with their elected officials, to build connections between citizens and government. These connections can lead to more public input into governance and policy

development. At a time when the state government in particular is enmeshed in inactivity and scandal, NDI's focus on improving municipal governance creates more opportunities for local elected officials to address the day-to-day needs of their constituents.

The specific objectives of NDI's program are the following:

### **Political Party Development**

- Parties strengthen participation of members in key areas of party decision-making and activities.
- Parties improve organizational planning and development.
- Parties improve membership recruitment and development.
- The environment in select municipalities in which local politics and governance is conducted is improved.
- Party municipal branches develop and implement strategies for promoting issue-based political action at the local level.

### **Parliamentary Development**

- Parliamentary committees improve operations, capacity to initiate legislation and oversight of executive.
- Party caucuses improve caucus functions and develop issue-based legislative action.
- Legislatures develop more open and effective legislative process and improve oversight of executive.
- The Internship Program's support of parliaments becomes sustainable and locally administered.

## **III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

### **Political Party Development Program**

#### ***Federation***

#### ***Improving Local Governance – Multi-party Activities***

On April 6 and 14, NDI organized orientation seminars for local councilors from Bihac and Siroki Brijeg. These two seminars completed NDI's cycle of orientation seminars for local councilors elected in October 2004. In total, NDI has trained 48 newly elected local councilors from the Federation municipalities of Sarajevo, Zenica, Tuzla, Bihac and Siroki Brijeg. In addition to a basic orientation on the roles and responsibilities of an elected official and an overview of the legislative process, the seminars addressed the importance of advocacy work and proactive media outreach. Additionally, councilors engaged in discussions on the important roles that constituent office assistants and caucus spokespersons play in their day-to-day work.

Also this quarter, NDI provided draft caucus rules of procedure to caucuses in the Municipal Assemblies of Tuzla and Siroki Brijeg. The Institute is working with the Tuzla SDP

caucus and the Siroki Brijeg People's Party: *Radom za Boljta* (NSRzB) caucus to improve their internal functions and decision-making process. In the next quarter, NDI will conduct consultations with the individual caucus chairs to address changes needed in their current caucus rules. The Institute will also provide the same assistance to the LDS and New Croatian Initiative (NHI) caucuses in these municipal assemblies.

On June 24, NDI conducted a seminar for office assistants who will work in newly established municipal constituent outreach offices. Twenty-seven assistants from 18 offices, representing four political parties (SDP, LDS, NHI, and NSRzB) attended the seminar. Eight more assistants had been invited but were unable to attend. NDI will conduct a separate training for those eight assistants in the next quarter. The seminar was designed to provide an introduction to the purpose of constituent outreach, as well as practical tools for the day-to-day operations of the offices. The seminar addressed the following:

- The role of an elected official
- An overview of the legislative structure in BiH
- The importance of constituent outreach to effective governance
- Roles and responsibilities of constituent office assistants
- Casework and tracking

NDI provided the assistants with forms and techniques to improve the efficiency of scheduling meetings, tracking individual cases, garnering and tracking media coverage, developing questionnaires, and organizing public forums. The last exercise of the seminar was a simulation where the assistants broke into groups of "citizens" and "assistants" and practiced dealing with the public and using the above forms to track their cases.

In addition to designing process-related materials for the constituent offices, NDI produced a reference guide on micro-credit organizations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. As the great majority of issues that are brought by citizens to the constituent outreach offices are related to the economy, this guide will enable the offices to offer some real solutions on this issue. The guide includes contact information by municipality of organizations that provide small-business loans and other assistance. Each constituent outreach office will have a copy of the guide to use as a reference.

### *Party and Branch Consultations*

#### Social Democratic Party (SDP)

This quarter, NDI conducted numerous consultations with both the SDP central and branch leaderships, to further assist the party in its governance capacity. The Institute has worked to promote the concept of constituent outreach offices for elected officials at both the local and national levels, in order to increase interaction with citizens and party members, and improvements to SDP caucuses at all government levels, to increase party effectiveness in message development and delivery. NDI's efforts were rewarded in June when the Institute was invited to participate as the only non-party member of SDP's internal working group on

caucuses. Thus far, NDI has made presentations to the working group on improving caucus Rules of Procedure and the establishment of constituent outreach offices.

The SDP has embraced NDI's assistance, particularly in establishing constituent outreach offices. Even at the party's highest level, there is a recognition that the SDP must reach out to not only its membership, but to the general public, in order to work effectively in its elected capacity and to be successful in the October 2006 parliamentary elections. On June 9 and 19, the SDP, with NDI's assistance, opened constituent outreach offices in Mostar and Tuzla, respectively. NDI advised the party on the preparation of informative leaflets to be distributed across the cities (4,000 were prepared for the Mostar opening) and media outreach to gain maximum coverage in print and television media. Party President Zlatko Lagumdžija was actively involved in both events. In Mostar, he spent three hours meeting with approximately 30 constituents, addressing their concerns about the country's economic situation, stalled education reform, and privatization. Lagumdžija ended the day by speaking to a large audience on the topic of Bosnia's progress toward EU integration. In both Mostar and Tuzla, the constituent outreach offices are located in the SDP party headquarters and will serve SDP officials at the municipal, cantonal, entity and state legislative levels. The offices are open every day and are staffed by an office assistant, and every Thursday, one or more of the elected officials will be in the office to meet with constituents. Both the Mostar and Tuzla constituent offices will produce monthly outreach newsletters describing the SDP's platforms on local issues, and will distribute them by mail to local citizens.

In June, NDI met with the head of the SDP branch in Sarajevo Centar to address the branch's poor membership tracking and recruitment processes. The branch's membership database has not been updated in three years. NDI suggested a re-registration campaign and gave the branch a questionnaire developed by the Institute for other partners in this situation. NDI suggested that the questionnaire be delivered via individual meetings with local party officials in order to actively re-engage members in the party.

#### People's Party: *Radom za Boljta* (NSRzB)

This quarter, NDI met with the two local councilors who are members of the NSRzB Tuzla branch leadership to discuss improving their outreach work through the opening of constituent outreach offices. The Institute will follow-up in the next quarter to promote the establishment of a constituent office.

#### New Croatian Initiative (NHI)

Throughout the quarter, NDI assisted NHI local councilors from Orasje in opening a constituent outreach office. NDI presented them with the constituent outreach concept, focusing primarily on the benefits of opening a constituent office in Orasje. In late May, NDI conducted a comprehensive training for two NHI constituent office assistants and assisted them in preparations for the office, which opened in mid-June, and provided forms for tracking casework.

### Liberal Democratic Party (LDS)

Throughout the quarter, NDI assisted the LDS party leadership in designing and launching a re-registration campaign for the entire party. For this purpose, NDI developed a questionnaire for use in the campaign. In addition, NDI provided the LDS with membership software that will enable the party to have quick and easy access to data related to the number, location, and affiliations of its newly registered members. The re-registration campaign includes all LDS municipal branches and should be finished by the end of October 2005.

### *Comparative Research on Party Statutes*

NDI has completed a draft comparative research analysis on party statutes. The analysis addresses three issues that relate to internal party procedures: the nomination and selection of candidates; the party's decision-making process; and the election of party officials. A final version of the analysis, along with NDI recommendations for improvements to internal party procedures, will be distributed to individual party partners during consultations planned for the next quarter.

### ***Republika Srpska***

#### *Party and Branch Consultations*

### Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD)

The results of the polling recently conducted by Prism Research show a drop in the SNSD's popularity by several points compared to last fall. The Serb Democratic Party (SDS) is again the most popular political party in the RS, greatly ahead of the SNSD. In order to raise the profile of the party in local communities, NDI worked with the SNSD to develop strategies to increase the visibility and activity of the party's 350 councilors at the municipal level (70 of whom are members of the party's youth branch). Throughout the quarter, NDI collaborated with the SNSD leadership at the national level and in local and youth branches to develop new party by-laws for the SNSD secretariat organization, and encouraged it to increase constituency outreach through opening constituent outreach offices and creating newsletters and pamphlets for public distribution. In Prijedor, SNSD councilors will request space in the municipal office building to conduct constituent outreach. In Bijeljina, seven SNSD local councilors have begun holding office hours one afternoon a week in the party headquarters to meet with constituents. In addition, NDI worked with representatives from *Nenad Bastinac*, a foundation established in 2003 by SNSD members to provide external, supplemental support and direction to the party. The foundation requested NDI's assistance in educating young members of SNSD so they can actively participate in the party's work.

### Socialist Party (SP)

On April 22, NDI submitted recommendations for improving the party's effectiveness to party President Petar Djokic. The document outlines areas where NDI can offer assistance that will aid in improving the work of councilors, raising party visibility, strengthening connections

among party members and improving internal communication and organization. The document also outlined the purpose and utility of the establishment of constituent outreach offices. Djokic was receptive to the Institute's suggestions and expressed interest in cooperating with NDI. The Institute will follow up on these initiatives in the next quarter.

#### Democratic People's Union (DNS)

This quarter, NDI worked with the DNS to prepare for its fifth congress on June 18, wherein the party elected the president, presidency and the main board. Throughout the quarter, NDI also worked with councilors on improving constituent outreach at the municipal level. One DNS municipal councilor in the Banja Luka Assembly, Mira Popovic, has already established a regular meeting schedule, meeting with citizens every Thursday afternoon in the DNS office. Popovic has requested NDI's assistance in expanding this practice into an established and operational constituent outreach office with a trained office assistant. The Institute will assist Popovic in the next quarter.

#### *Improving Municipal Governance*

This quarter, NDI worked with the Celinac Municipal Assembly to update the Assembly's Rules of Procedure in order to improve the work, efficiency and organization of the Assembly. Although more than 60 percent of councilors in the Celinac Municipal Assembly are serving a second term, many are unfamiliar with the Rules of Procedures and do not want to follow these procedural guidelines. On April 20, at the request of the Assembly Speaker, NDI trained Celinac municipal councilors on the current Rules of Procedures and areas of possible improvement, including the role of committee work, the process for the discussion and adoption of the agenda, and the role of the Speaker. NDI also presented the concept of constituent outreach, explaining the role of the councilor as the elected representative and providing different models of outreach, including councilor's offices, public meetings, and newsletters. In the next quarter, NDI will follow up with individual councilors in Celinac who are interested in establishing constituent outreach offices.

In May, NDI met with Slobodan Gavranovic, Speaker of the Banja Luka Assembly, regarding the efficiency and organization of the Assembly. Gavranovic expressed interest in additional assistance from NDI in training councilors in Banja Luka to fully understand the role of a councilor and in the development of Assembly documents, such as a Rules of Procedure and Code of Conduct.

#### *Training Activities*

#### SNSD Youth Branch (MSD)

On April 9 and 10, NDI, in cooperation with the SNSD, organized a training seminar for 20 MSD members from Banja Luka on party structure, decision-making, and campaign planning. At the conclusion of the session, participants divided into three groups to work on development plans for specific activities, at least one of which was to be implemented by participants after the training. Significantly, the training session was attended by members of the party's central



leadership, including the party's secretary-general, campaign manager and two MPs. By contributing financial and human resources to the training, the SNSD leadership demonstrated a high commitment to developing party membership, particularly among youth.

On May 14, NDI trained a second cycle of 30 MSD members at a two-day seminar in Slatina. As this group is expected to conduct the majority of campaign work in the members' respective municipalities, NDI's presentation focused on canvassing and voter targeting. In addition to the NDI trainer, SNSD's director of communication led a session on campaign planning and strategy, and Djordje Latinovic, a member of SNSD's Main Board, led a session on the role of the candidate. Finally, Stanislav Cjado, SNSD campaign manager and a member of the party's main board, led a discussion about the current situation in the SNSD and the party's chances in the next elections.

### Orientation Seminar for Local Councilors

As councilors from Mrkonjic Grad were unable to come to Banja Luka for a training seminar earlier this year, NDI conducted an orientation for local councilors elected in October 2004. Eight of 11 SNSD Mrkonjic Grad councilors were present, as well as Mrkonjic Grad Mayor Tegeltija, also an SNSD member. The seminar focused on the role of a councilor, the development of a councilor's agenda, media relations and constituency databases. Participants were particularly interested in the creation of their own constituency databases and the possibility of creating a newsletter to improve communication with citizens.

### *Study Visit to Watford, United Kingdom*

This quarter, NDI staff participated in a study mission to Watford, United Kingdom, organized with assistance from NDI Macedonia, to observe how Britain's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) conducted a targeted parliamentary campaign. RS Political Party Program Director Vanja Malidzan observed the LDP campaign's strategic planning process and implementation, including leaflet production and distribution, door-to-door canvassing, walkabouts, candidate interviews, and general campaign headquarter's work. His experience will serve as a practical resource for the Institute's campaign trainings for candidates and party activists in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

### **Parliamentary Development Program**

#### ***Federation of BiH Parliamentary Assembly (FBiH)***

#### Internship Program

NDI's bi-weekly meetings with interns this quarter included discussions on police reform, previous sessions of both houses, and current projects in which the interns are engaged. In addition to providing a forum for NDI oversight of the program's progress, the bi-weekly meetings are an opportunity for interns to share experiences



FBiH interns with FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic.

and to learn from each other. For example, during the discussion on police reform, one of the interns gave a presentation on the development of inter-party talks and the media coverage of them. In addition, students who work in the same parliament but in a different House have the opportunity to inform others about their work.

This quarter, NDI arranged for the following guest speakers to address the parliamentary interns, along with their counterparts from the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, about the current economic and political situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina:

- Anita Vanderbilt, program officer for Eastern Europe from the Canadian Parliamentary Center, addressed the interns on research techniques used in Western parliaments. As Vanderbilt is a former parliamentary intern, she was able to discuss the work of interns in foreign countries' parliaments, as well as common challenges encountered during internships and techniques for searching for adequate information.
- Sacir Filandra, distinguished professor from the University of Sarajevo Political Science Faculty, discussed social and language disintegration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This controversial topic led to a discussion wherein the interns reached the conclusion that each person has the right to speak and write in any language he/she chooses.
- Ahmet Hadzipasic, prime minister of the Federation of BiH, participated in an open-forum discussion with the interns. The feedback from this meeting was positive, as interns were excited at the opportunity to ask the prime minister direct questions and were pleased by his candor and willingness to fully explain his answers, even on sensitive topics.

### Information Technology

After successfully finishing three cycles of computer courses for parliamentary staff members, a graduation ceremony was held in the FBiH Parliament on April 6. Persons who addressed the audience, in order of speaking, were House of Peoples Secretary Izmir Hadziavdic; Deputy Ambassador of the Turkish Embassy in BiH Hidayet Eris; NDI Country Director Niamh O'Connor; and Anatolian Development Foundation (ADF) Director Ali Burak Barçilli. The 25 people who successfully finished the computer course are already applying the knowledge they gained in their everyday activities and are improving not only their work but also the work of their committee, as most of them are committee secretaries. In addition to the committee staff, a parliamentary website team was formed at NDI's suggestion. It is comprised of six persons who finished a specially designed website course. The team is now actively working on improving the existing website together with NDI, ADF representatives, and an NDI intern.

On April 12, NDI launched the fourth computer course for FBiH parliamentary staff. The new group is comprised of eight staff members from the House of Peoples, House of Representatives and Joint Services. As with previous courses, participants will learn basic computing and internet skills designed to help them provide organizational and research support to parliament.

On April 19, NDI met with Aida Cikic, president of the Information Committee of the House of Representatives, and Nurko Delalic, secretary of the Information Committee. They were interested in learning about the parliamentary website and see it as one of the major tools for demonstrating the transparency of the work of the FBiH parliament. NDI will continue to assist Cikic and Delalic in efforts to use information technology and other outreach techniques to increase parliamentary transparency.

### Constituent Outreach

This quarter, NDI met with FBiH MP Reuf Sokolovic (SDP) regarding the opening of a constituent outreach office in Gracanica. The office will also support outreach for SDP councilors in the Gracanica Assembly. Sokolovic hired former NDI intern Dzenana Tukulj as the coordinator of the outreach office. Tukulj will supervise and train, with NDI assistance, two assistants for the office.

FBiH MP Ifran Imamovic (SDP), along with local SDP councilors in Kakanj, is working to open a constituent outreach office in Kakanj. In preparation, their first step will be to find appropriate office space in the city center. They selected an office assistant and sent him to NDI's training seminar for constituent office assistants in June. NDI will continue to provide assistance over the next few months; it is anticipated the constituent office will open in the fall of 2005.

NDI also discussed the opening of a constituent outreach office with FBiH MP Helez Zukan (SDP), who showed great interest and was happy with the fact that the technical secretary from SDP Bugojno, Jadranka Mlaco, would participate in NDI's training seminar for outreach office assistants. Zukan shared a few ideas regarding possible outreach activities in his electoral unit, as he recognizes the need to establish better relations with citizens. Zukan will invite four municipal councilors to participate in the outreach office activities, hoping to show that SDP Bugojno is serious about connecting with the public. Zukan also requested NDI assistance with opening similar offices in six other municipal branches within the Central Bosnia Canton.

NDI worked with FBiH MP Alma Bandic-Drndo on improvements to a recently opened constituency outreach office in Hadzici. The Institute provided materials to assist with tracking casework and publicizing the office's work. To this end, NDI participated in a 15-minute segment on local television discussing the office and how constituency outreach can help a parliament become more transparent.

### Public Committee Hearings

This quarter, NDI assisted the Committees on Self-governance of the two Houses of the Federation Parliament in organizing a series of five public hearings on the draft Law on Local Self-Government. The first hearing, held in Sarajevo, attracted more than 50 members of the public and municipal-level elected officials to discuss the draft legislation. Participants were allowed to present their opinions on the draft law and to ask questions of the committee members. Four other hearings conducted in different municipalities around the Federation during the quarter.

NDI participated in a public hearing held by the Information Committee of the Federation Parliament, which addressed the benefits and techniques of increasing citizen participation in the legislative process. The hour-long hearing resulted in the committee recommending public hearings, outreach through media, and outreach to local NGOs in a report that was submitted to the plenary.

### ***Republika Srpska National Assembly (RNSA)***

#### Information Technology

This quarter, NDI, in cooperation with the Anatolian Development Foundation (ADF), designed computer training courses for staff of the RSNA and the RS Council of People. The training course is based on a similar program previously executed by NDI and ADF for staff of the Federation Parliament. The training sessions will be held at NDI's office in Banja Luka and will last for 4 to 5 weeks, beginning in September. NDI will work with the RSNA and the Council of People to select participants and to distribute questionnaires to potential participants in order to determine the current level of knowledge of the participants.

#### Constituent Outreach

Throughout the quarter, NDI continued to provide assistance to MPs in opening constituent offices across the RS, as required under an NDI-inspired amendment to the Law on Local Self-Government. Four offices were opened this quarter, two each in Novi Grad and Knezevo. NDI developed a database of existing constituent offices, including the offices' addresses and hours, and will circulate the database among NGOs and post it on the NDI web page. Currently, a total of 30 Republika Srpska MPs maintain constituent offices with more to be opened in the near future.

#### Consultations on Improving Committee Work

This quarter, NDI collaborated with the RNSA to improve the work of committees. At the request of the RNSA, NDI drafted suggestions for committee work improvement and necessary actions and submitted the document to the chairs and staff of selected committees for approval. The single most important area requiring improvement is the lack of defined roles and responsibilities of MPs serving on committees. Thus, NDI has tasked the committee chairs to standardize the roles and scope of work for individual committee members. By imposing a more structured format to committee meetings, the RNSA will improve the quality of discussions on the reports produced. In May, the Finance Committee adopted NDI's recommendation to improve committee work, making it the first committee in the RSNA to establish a division of work amongst MPs and to set a protocol for inviting media to meetings.

#### Internship Program

In April, NDI held a graduation ceremony for 14 interns from the third cycle of NDI's internship program. RSNA Speaker Dusan Stojcic awarded the graduates their diplomas, and the

RSNA general secretary, along with assembly vice presidents, heads of caucuses, the RS vice prime minister and the RS minister of justice, attended as guests.

This quarter, NDI worked with the RSNA to plan and coordinate a trip for the recent intern graduates to travel to Sarajevo to meet with their colleagues in the FBiH and BiH PA parliamentary intern programs. The trip, which will be funded directly by the RSNA, will provide interns with an opportunity to share their experiences and lessons learned with their colleagues and to visit the BiH Parliamentary Assembly and FBiH Parliament. The interns are also working on the latest edition of the intern newsletter, *Stazista*, to be distributed in September.

The next cycle of the internship program is currently being advertised, with applications due at the end of August. Starting with the coming intern cycle, NDI will no longer provide stipends and will seek to include partners who are interested in assuming management of the program in the process. As part of the handover strategy for the internship program, NDI met with Zeljko Paukovic, a representative of the largest youth NGO in the RS, the Youth Communication Center (YCC). YCC has expressed interest in taking over management of the internship program.

#### Rules of Procedure

This quarter, NDI provided the RSNA with an English translation of the current version of the Rules of Procedure. The English version will make the Rules of Procedure available to the Assembly's international partners for the first time, enhancing the Assembly's ability to cooperate with representatives of the international community.

#### ***BiH Parliamentary Assembly (BiH PA)***

This quarter, NDI conducted regular meetings with the BiH PA leadership, committee secretaries and staff, and international organizations that work with the BiH PA in order to improve the functioning of the Assembly and the coordination of assistance.

#### Internship Program

NDI's parliamentary interns are currently assisting with research pertaining to the BiH Feasibility Study for the EU. This quarter, intern work focused on researching the Law on Local Self-governance and analyzing the compatibility of local laws with the *acquis communautaire*, in addition to other projects related to European integration.

At the request of the new secretary general of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH Aljosa Campara, NDI reallocated intern assignments to provide additional support to the Protocol and Foreign Affairs departments. The request for reallocation demonstrates the extent to which interns contribute meaningfully to the work of the Assembly.

## Information Technology

This quarter, NDI began preparations for computer training courses for parliamentary assembly staff. There are currently 23 parliamentary assembly employees interested in the training, which the Institute plans to coordinate with the Anatolian Development Foundation (ADF). Pending additional external funding, ADF and NDI will look to launch the project in September.

### ***Other Meetings/ Consultations***

On April 13, NDI met with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Representative Leslie Sheriff in order to improve cooperation between the organizations and avoid any overlap of program activities. In order to facilitate better cooperation between the non-governmental and governmental sectors, CRS has agreed to assist with the promotion of constituent offices among other NGOs in relevant municipalities.

On April 5, NDI met with American Councils for International Education (ACIE) Program Coordinator Ljuljeta Kushi in order to exchange information about programs and to find areas of cooperation, especially with regard to the internship program. This information will enable NDI's interns, following the completion of their studies in BiH, to apply for post-graduate studies abroad through ACIE.

## **IV. RESULTS**

### **Political Party Development**

**Objective: Parties improve membership recruitment and development.**

- The SDP branch in Sarajevo Centar has begun re-registering its members in order to update its membership database. Each current member will receive an individual visit from a member of the branch leadership and will be asked to fill out an NDI-designed questionnaire that will collect contact information and the person's views on the party.
- With NDI assistance, the LDS began a country-wide campaign of re-registering its party members. The party will distribute questionnaires and track responses and future membership with a database provided by the Institute. The re-registration campaign is due to be completed by October 2005.

**Objective: Party municipal branches develop and implement strategies for promoting issue-based political action at the local level.**

Results reported during this quarter involve the opening of constituent outreach offices by political parties. Through constituent outreach, parties are able to communicate more effectively with the public, thus learning about the issues that are important to their constituents. The parties are then able to incorporate these issues into responsive municipal governance agendas.

- With NDI's assistance, the SDP opened constituent outreach offices in Mostar and Tuzla for its elected officials at the municipal, cantonal, entity, and state legislative levels. The openings were widely advertised to the public and were well attended. Party President Zlatko Lagumdžija attended both openings, spending three hours meeting with approximately 30 constituents at the Mostar opening. Both offices have NDI-trained office assistants who will track incoming cases, provide reference information to constituents, and will be able to organize public events and conduct media outreach.
- The NHI opened a constituent outreach office for its municipal councilors in Orasje. The office is currently staffed by two office assistants who were trained by NDI.
- The SNSD used NDI's advice and conducted constituent outreach at the municipal level. SNSD local councilors in Bijeljina and Prijedor have begun holding office hours to meet with the public and are looking to hire office assistants.
- A DNS councilor in the Banja Luka Assembly has begun meeting with constituents every Thursday afternoon. This councilor has requested NDI's assistance in improving her outreach through the possible hiring of an office assistant and improved office organization and case management.

**Objective: The environment in select municipalities in which local politics and governance is conducted is improved.**

- The Speaker of the Celinac Municipal Assembly is working with NDI to improve the implementation of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure. The Institute conducted a training seminar for Assembly members on the current rules, and offered suggestions on how to improve them to help the assembly become more efficient and transparent. An assembly that implements clear and effective rules for operation is more able to spend its time discussing substantive legislative issues, rather than process and procedures.

## **Parliamentary Development**

**Objective: Select committees improve operations, capacity to initiate legislation and oversight of executive.**

- The Information Committee from the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament has developed connections with local NGOs and displayed great interest in the development of the parliamentary website. The committee president and the secretary also presented a Code of Conduct for MPs. The Code of Conduct was adopted and it will be incorporated into the new Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives.
- Chairs of five selected committees in the RSNA agreed to prepare a list of NGOs and other relevant parties, based on the committee's scope of work, that will be informed on a regular basis of each committee's agenda. All five committees have committed to inviting media to its meetings. Committee chairs have also committed to formalizing the work among members of the committee. The Finance Committee was the first of the five committees to implement the above improvements.

**Objective:**                    **Party caucuses improve functions and develop issue-base legislative action.**

Results this quarter involve the opening of constituent outreach offices, which serve to connect members of parliament with their constituents, thus enabling MPs and their caucuses to develop legislation that is responsive to the concerns of those they govern.

- Four constituent outreach offices for RSNA MPs were opened this quarter, expanding the total number of such offices in the RS to 30. More offices are planned to be opened during the summer months, using space in municipal buildings, as obligated under the Law on Self-Government. The four new offices include two in Novi Grad and two in Knezevo.
- With NDI assistance, three members of the Federation BiH parliament opened constituent outreach offices in the municipalities of Gracanica, Kakanj and Hadzici.

**Objective:**                    **Legislatures develop more open and effective legislative process and improve oversight of executive.**

- With NDI's assistance, the Federation of BiH Parliamentary Assembly (FBiH) established a parliamentary website team. The team is comprised of six persons who finished NDI's website course. The team is now actively working on improving the existing website together with NDI, ADF representatives, and an IT intern. A well-maintained parliamentary website includes plenary and committee schedules, substantive issues discussed, and information on caucuses and individual MPs, allowing the public more access to the legislative process.

**Objective:**                    **The Internship Program's support of parliaments becomes sustainable and locally administered.**

- At the request of the new Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH Aljosa Campara, NDI reallocated intern assignments to provide additional support to the Protocol and Foreign Affairs departments. The request for reallocation demonstrates the extent to which interns contribute meaningfully to the work of the assembly.

### **Unanticipated Result**

- The SDP included NDI as a participant in the party's internal working group on caucus development. Starting in June, NDI will sit in on all of the working group's meetings and provide advice and assistance, particularly with regards to the opening of constituent outreach offices and the reform of caucus rules of procedure. By requesting NDI's participation in this working group, SDP is demonstrating a commitment to improving the organization and function of its caucuses.



## **V. EVALUATION**

### **Political Party Development**

Following a frustrating winter of poor weather and political unrest, NDI's efforts to work with leading moderate parties to improve their public outreach are starting to provide significant dividends. The SDP in particular has embraced NDI's assistance in opening municipal-level constituent offices and improving its work in municipal assemblies through caucus development. In addition to the number of constituent offices the SDP opened or has committed to open, in recent months the greatest indicator of its commitment to improve as a party is the fact that it has invited NDI to participate in its internal working group on caucus development. In this way, NDI will have access to party leadership and be able to monitor the party's progress in such areas as improved caucus rules of procedure, caucus outreach through the establishment of constituent offices, and membership tracking through office databases.

In the Republika Srpska, the SNSD also has been receptive to NDI assistance in the opening of constituent outreach offices. However, SNSD's receptivity to NDI has been more steady in recent years and is thus less of a breakthrough than the SDP. NDI is pleased with progress in both the Federation and Republika Srpska on the opening of constituent outreach offices and looks forward to helping party partners use the input from constituents to form responsive legislation (and party platforms) in the year ahead of the 2006 parliamentary elections.

### **Parliamentary Programs**

In addition to the research and legislative analysis provided to committees and caucuses, one of the parliamentary internship program's most visible outputs is *Quorum*, a booklet of media articles related to the FBiH parliament and the Federation that NDI interns prepare for MPs prior to each plenary session. The interns include clips from different daily newspapers, and weekly and monthly political magazines. Some of the suggestions as to which newspapers should be included come from MPs themselves. As MPs cannot buy or read all of the printed media outlets, *Quorum* is of great assistance to them. On many occasions, interns have witnessed the Federation prime minister or the chair of the House reading *Quorum* in order to keep up with media coverage on the parliament. The publication has received praise both publicly and during individual meetings with MPs.

## **VI. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

NDI's activities during the next quarter will include the following:

- Finalization of comparative research on party statutes;
- Assistance to local councilors on opening constituent offices;
- Facilitation of RS intern visit to FBiH and BiH Parliaments;
- Consultations with individual party leaders;
- Assistance to the SNSD on conducting youth training;
- Assistance to the FBiH on holding press conference regarding its improved website;

- Graduation ceremony for the fifth cycle of the FBiH interns;
- Consultations with presidents and secretaries of parliamentary committees on improving the work of committees;
- Follow-up consultations with the SDP on caucus Rules of Procedures;
- Further meetings with parliamentary representatives on the eventual handover of the internship program; and
- Orientation sessions for constituent office assistants.